

2020 Advocacy Day Schedule

WHAT TO EXPECT AT ADVOCACY DAY

Advocacy Day begins at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays during the legislative session. We start with an hour and a half briefing on current issues and end with an afternoon of advocacy. While we feature a highlighted topic each week, the morning briefing will also cover late breaking news on budget items and bills of interest relating to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. We meet at The United Churches (Across the street from the Capitol), 110 11th Ave SE, Olympia, 98501. If you need a guide for the day, please let us know by calling 1-888-754-8798, ext. 5, or e-mail bean@arcwa.org



January 22nd—Legislative Briefing/Reception

Our theme this year is “FINDING needs, NEMOre \$\$\$” as we encourage legislators to champion bills/budget items that are important to people with developmental disabilities. A new “NEMOre ___” button will be distributed each week. Join us at 2 pm at The United Churches for a briefing of the current issues of concern. Go have dinner, then attend the Legislative Reception which will be held in the Columbia Room from 5:30 - 7:00 pm.



January 29th—Equity Needed for Providers Wages

Self-advocates, supported living providers as well as family members and others join to let legislators know how important living in the community is and ask them to ensure that providers of these supports are paid a fair living wage. There is currently a huge inequity as supported living providers do exactly the same care tasks as state employees in State Operated Living Alternatives (SOLA), yet receive much lower wages. We meet at United Churches at 10 am to learn why this is such a critical need.



February 5th—Good Paying Jobs for Self Advocates

Having a job means that individuals with DD can be productive citizens, contributing to our economy by paying taxes, while also providing valuable services. Being gainfully employed builds self-esteem, but our state still allows people with disabilities to be paid sub-minimum wages, as little as 2 cents an hour! Join self-advocates, families and employment service providers from Community Employment Alliance (CEA) as we work to make wages equitable. CEA will hold a rally in the capital right afterwards.



February 12th—Family Supports

Families provide the majority of care at home for people with DD, saving our state millions of dollars. Respite care is a critical service, but its often difficult to find a provider. Teens and adults with DD and challenging behaviors are taken to hospital emergency rooms and remain there with no medical need because the behavior supports they need are not readily available. Parent to Parent, local chapters of The Arc and Parent Coalitions invite you to come to this meeting and bring your children with you.



February 19th—Caseload Forecasting

The Caseload Forecast Council is tasked with providing legislators with a projection of how many people will be needing services each biennium from specific entitlement programs. These include K12 education, Corrections and Aging and Long Term Care, among others. DD services are NOT included in caseload forecasting which is why we have a huge waiting list for services. No assessments have been done for those waiting so we don't even know what their needs are. It's time legislators fixed this inequity. We need forecasting for the people waiting so they can at least have a case manager to assess their need and help them find some supports.



February 24th—Need More \$\$\$

Creating a supplemental budget is the one thing legislators are required to do during this legislative session. With many new legislators, it is important that you educate yours about the needs of people with DD. This is not a time for legislators to create new spending items, it is to fix shortfalls in last year's biennial budget. Help by using your voice to let policy-makers know how critical services for DD are and encourage them to ensure these services are funded. Learn what services and supports are proposed for cuts or increases and what you can do to help.



March 4th—Workforce Shortage

Do you trouble finding a care provider, a respite provider, a supported living provider, a primary care physician, a dentist, etc. In the early 1900s, people had large families with 8–12 children. By the 1950s, families were having fewer children, an average of 5 kids. In the 1980s the average was only 3 children and currently it is 0 - 2 children. As children of the early baby boomers are retiring, the next generation provides a smaller number of people to fill the workforce and as the trend continues it will be even harder to find providers. Learn what we need to do.

HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE?

We want to know how Advocacy Day was for YOU! At each Advocacy Day event you will be able to share your experience with us. Our evaluation form is short and easy to fill out, just circle the smiley face that best describes your experiences. You can fill it out and turn it in at the event.

You can also respond at home afterwards online by going to:

<http://arcwa.org/advocacyday>
Click on **Advocacy Day Feedback Form**



The Arc's Action Network



Visit The Arc's online action center - **VoterVoice**. Sign up for easy-to-use action alerts at www.votervoices.net/ARCWA/home and find much more to keep you up-to-date on what is happening in Olympia!

- * Budget and Policy Alerts
- * Advocacy Events including weekly Advocacy Days and Topics
- * Contact information including web site and Twitter
- * Background data about your elected officials
- * Senate and House Committee membership
- * Petitions to gather online signatures about important issues
- * An online bill tracker for both state and federal concerns
- * And so much more!